



**Bob Buckhorn, Mayor**

July 26, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As the second largest metropolitan area in Florida, Tampa Bay is a dynamic, economically important community. We are proud of our healthcare, education and technology sectors—as well as our vibrant tourism industry. But like other large cities, Tampa has suffered during the recession. Leaders in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties are focused on growing our existing economic base and providing new opportunities for our workforce.

It is in this context that I write to you and the Commission to provide comments on AT&T's proposal to merge with T-Mobile USA, which is under review in the Commission's 11-65 docket. AT&T's main value proposition for this merger is improved and expanded access to wireless broadband technology. The merger will bring new connectivity to rural sections of the country whose residents are still not able to utilize the high-speed broadband network. For urban areas like ours, this merger would enhance existing technology and create new economic opportunities.

A primary outcome of this merger is jobs. AT&T is committed to investing billions of dollars to improve infrastructure for its expanded 4G LTE coverage should this merger move forward. That investment would create jobs—conservatively estimated at 96,000 in the US, with the potential for many more in related industries. According to a study by The Discovery Institute, Florida could yield an economic impact of \$7.5 billion through greater broadband availability—potentially adding thousands more jobs for our state.

Tampa Bay is an ideal place to establish new businesses to service the growing broadband industry. Who's to say the next Facebook or Twitter-type company won't set up shop along the banks of the Hillsborough River or in Ybor City? As technology changes, new opportunities abound and I believe the merger of AT&T with T-Mobile would facilitate such opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments. I hope you will take them under advisement as you deliberate your decision.

Sincerely,

Bob Buckhorn

BB:bm

cc: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
The Honorable Marco Rubio  
The Honorable Kathy Castor

Commissioner Robert McDowell  
The Honorable Bill Nelson  
The Honorable Gus Bilirakis